

## What's News

### Business & Finance

Powell said the Fed was prepared to raise interest rates in half-percent-point steps and high enough to slow the economy if it concluded such steps were warranted to bring inflation down. **A1**

◆ The S&P 500 edged down 1.94 points after Powell's remarks, while the Dow and Nasdaq shed 0.6% and 0.4%, respectively. Treasury yields rose. **B10**

◆ The SEC proposed stringent requirements for publicly traded companies to report information on greenhouse-gas emissions and risks related to climate change. **B1**

◆ Alphabet's Google should be forced to turn over internal emails that it has withheld or redacted in the antitrust case filed against it by state and federal governments, the Justice Department said. **A3**

◆ American frackers are raising the number of drilling rigs by more than 20% after depleting their inventory of previously drilled but untapped wells. **B1**

◆ Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway said it agreed to buy insurer Allegheny for about \$11.6 billion. **B1**

◆ Foxconn said its factories in Shenzhen, China, were again running at full capacity after the city wrapped up Covid-19 tests on all its residents. **B4**

◆ Nike's quarterly sales grew 5% as the sneaker giant benefited from gains in its digital business. **B3**

◆ Apple services were back online after a weekend earlier Monday disrupted access for users and businesses. **B4**

### World-Wide

◆ Russian attacks struck Kyiv, Odessa and other locations across Ukraine as Moscow appears to be shifting its battle plan to compel Ukraine to relinquish claims to its southern and eastern territory. **A1, A6-9**

◆ The U.S. is sending some of the Soviet-made air defense equipment it secretly acquired decades ago to bolster the Ukrainian military. **A1**

◆ The U.S. plans to boost military spending and increase its military presence near Russia in response to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. **A6**

◆ A Boeing 737 operated by China Eastern carrying 132 passengers and crew dropped from the sky and slammed into a mountain range in southern China. **A1**

◆ The ex-wife of former Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens alleged in a court filing under oath that he physically abused her and their children before their divorce. **A4**

◆ Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson spoke about adherence to legal precedent on the first day of her Senate confirmation hearings. **A4**

◆ Lawmakers across the U.S. are pushing to pause the collection of gas taxes to give drivers a temporary break at the pump as fuel costs hover near record highs. **A3**

◆ The Biden administration concluded that the Myanmar military's violence against the largely Muslim Rohingya minority amounts to genocide. **A11**

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# Russia Presses Grinding Attack



A rescue worker Monday at the site of a shopping center in Kyiv that was shelled by Russian forces.

Forces bomb civilian areas as Kyiv rebuffs Moscow's demand to surrender port city

BY MATTHEW LUXMOORE AND ALAN LUKISON

KYIV, Ukraine—Russian attacks struck Kyiv, Odessa and other locations across Ukraine as Moscow appears to be shifting its battle plan to compel Ukraine to relinquish claims to its southern and eastern territory.

Ukraine on Monday rebuffed Russia's demand to surrender the embattled port city of Mariupol, where intense fighting continued.

As its military offensive against Ukraine has stalled, Russia is increasingly bombing civilian areas in what some U.S. officials believe is evolving into a war of attrition aimed at pressuring the government in Kyiv into granting concessions and acquiescing to Moscow's demands.

The seeming tactical shift comes as President Biden is heading to Europe this week for meetings with allies and partners in the North Atlantic

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# U.S. Sends Soviet Air Defenses to Ukraine

BY NANCY A. YOUSSEF AND MICHAEL R. GORDON

WASHINGTON—The U.S. is sending some of the Soviet-made air defense equipment it secretly acquired decades ago to bolster the Ukrainian military as it seeks to fend off Russian air and missile attacks, U.S. officials said.

The systems, which one U.S. official said include the SA-8, are decades old and were obtained by the U.S. so it could examine the technology used by the Russian military and

which Moscow has exported around the world.

The weapons are familiar to Ukraine's military, which inherited this type of equipment following the breakup of the Soviet Union.

The Pentagon declined to comment on the U.S. decision to reach into its little-known arsenal of Soviet weapons, which comes as the Biden administration is mounting a major push to expand Ukraine's air defense capabilities.

The U.S. over the decades

has acquired a small number of Soviet missile defense systems so that they could be examined by U.S. intelligence experts and help with training U.S. forces.

The secretive efforts received public attention in 1994 when a Soviet-made transport plane was observed at the Huntsville, Ala., airport within sight of a major highway. It was later disclosed that the plane was carrying an S-300 air defense system that the U.S. had acquired in Belarus as part of a clandestine project

involving a Pentagon contractor that cost \$100 million, according to a former official involved in the mission.

The S-300—called the SA-10 by NATO—is a long-range, advanced air defense system intended to protect large areas over a much wider radius. The SA-8 is a short-range, tactical air defense system designed to move with ground forces and provide cover from aircraft and helicopters. While the SA-8 has a shorter range, it is highly mobile and potentially easier to hide.

Some of the Soviet weapons have been kept at the Redstone Arsenal in Alabama, which its website notes serves as "the Army's center for missile and rocket programs." At

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### The Ukraine Crisis

- ◆ War complicates U.S. military pivot to Asia..... A6
- ◆ Oligarchs' yachts hit the high seas..... A7
- ◆ Support for Russian oil ban grows in EU..... A8

# Powell Says Fed Ready To Be More Aggressive

BY NICK TIMIRAO

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said the central bank was prepared to raise interest rates in half-percent-point steps and high enough to slow the economy if it concluded such steps were warranted to bring down inflation.

"If we think it's appropriate to raise [by a half point] at a meeting or meetings, we will do so," Mr. Powell said during a discussion after a speech on Monday before the National Association for Business Economics in Washington.

Mr. Powell's remarks struck a tougher tone than he used days earlier in a news conference after the Fed voted to raise its benchmark rate by a

quarter point and he signaled a stronger bias toward lifting rates until the central bank sees clear evidence that inflation is falling to its 2% target.

The Fed lifted the rate from near zero to a range between 0.25% and 0.5% last week, and officials penciled in a series of increases raising it to slightly below 2% at the end of this year and to about 2.75% next year.

Stocks and bonds fell as Mr. Powell spoke. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed down 0.58% on Monday. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.298% in afternoon trading, as yields rise

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◆ Stocks move lower on Powell comments..... B10

# Hearing Begins For Nominee



Supreme Court nominee Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee. **A4**

# Boeing 737 Crashes In Southern China With 132 on Board

BELING—A Boeing Co. 737 carrying 132 people dropped from the sky and slammed into a mountain range in southern China.

By Yoko Kubota, Benjamin Katz and Wenxin Fan

The relatively new aircraft, operated by China Eastern Airlines, was at cruising altitude on Monday when it suddenly went into a nosedive, and plummeted more than 25,000 feet in less than two minutes, according to aircraft tracking service Flightradar24.

Video footage circulated by Chinese state media showed a plume of gray smoke emerging from the crash site and what appeared to be a wing fragment lying along the side of a mountain trail with the Chinese characters for "China Eastern" partly visible.

On board were nine crew members and 123 passengers, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said. If all are confirmed dead, it would mark China's deadliest aircraft crash

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◆ FAA staffer testifies former Boeing pilot lied..... B1

## Want to See 'Scream' Or 'Scream'?

Hollywood loves sequels so much titles don't change

BY CHRIS KORNELIS

Ryan Showers says when the name of the latest installment in the horror franchise "Scream" was announced, it created a wave of controversy in the movies' fanbase. Unlike previous sequels that had been named "Scream 2" and "Scream 3" and "Scream 4," the new film, released in January, was called "Scream." That's the same title as the 1996 original.

"Scream fans have a very set mindset in terms of what to expect," says Mr. Showers, a law student at Penn State, who hosts a podcast dedicated to the franchise.

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## Ranchers Take Aim At Meatpackers' Turf

Nebraska cattlemen plan their own butchering plant to bypass beef-processing giants

BY PATRICK THOMAS

For years, many ranchers have blamed meatpacking giants for low cattle prices. Now, some cattlemen say they have a solution: Process the beef themselves.

On 80 acres in western Nebraska, a group of cattle ranchers and feedlot owners this spring plans to break ground on a \$325 million processing plant they say will boost competition—and livestock prices—in one of the country's top beef-producing regions.

The venture, Sustainable Beef LLC, comes as ranchers say they have struggled against years of low cattle prices, most recently despite the rise of wholesale beef prices over the pandemic.

The average price for live cattle was up 5% in 2021 from 2019, according to figures from the Livestock Marketing Information Center and Agriculture Department, while the average price of boxed beef—cuts that packaging plants box to ship to retailers—was up 26%.

"The whole industry was motivated to do something," said Rusty Kemp, a Sustainable Beef co-founder, referring to the ranching industry. "It's been a tough 36 months for a lot of cattle feeders."

Some cattlemen have pushed Washington to tighten antitrust rules for the four biggest meatpackers, JBS USA Holdings Inc., Tyson Foods Inc., Cargill Inc. and National Beef Packing Co. The

Please turn to page A12

## How to defeat 5-7% inflation? 15-20% increases in productivity.

Software robots deliver productivity gains fast.



UiPath Reboot Work.

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"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

Tuesday, March 22, 2022  
Today, partly to mostly sunny skies, high 59. Tonight, partly cloudy skies, low 50. Tomorrow, colder, thickening clouds, rain late, high 49. Weather map appears on Page B12.

## Russian Shells Blanket Ukrainian Capital and Port City

### Europe Rushes to Fill Jobs With Refugees

By LIZ ALDERMAN and PATRICIA COHEN

PARIS — German companies are taking thousands of jobs for Ukrainian refugees. Portuguese firms promise language training for Ukrainians looking for work. In Lithuania, businesses are providing on-site child care to help Ukrainian women move seamlessly into the workplace.

As the wartime exodus from Ukraine grows larger, companies are rushing forward with offers of employment, from high-level engineering jobs to retail and factory work, to help those displaced by the fighting settle quickly — as well as to fill their own labor shortages.

The outreach is happening with a speed and scope that are rare for the European Union. Unlike refugees who have flooded Europe from wars in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, the three million Ukrainians fleeing Russian bombs are being placed on a fast track for protection and employment, as governments waive visa requirements and provide almost instant access to labor markets and education.

Thousands of jobs are being offered exclusively to Ukrainian refugees by on-the-ground recruitment agencies and through a vast network of online job boards that has sprung up across social media.

"I will work at anything," said Nastya Filipas, 25, who escaped to Romania last week with her 15-year-old sister, Viktoryia, as Russia's assault came closer to her hometown, Odessa.

With just \$200 in their pockets, the sisters planned to stay with a Ukrainian friend who had rented an apartment in Bucharest. Nastya said that at home she had worked in restaurants, doing needlework and making handmade carpets. "I hope I will find something," she said, adding that she worried her inability to speak Romanian or English would be a handicap.

For many others, though, the jobs have been offered before they have decided whether to stay. Some offers are aimed at filling openings that have languished in Europe since the reopening of economies after coronavirus lockdowns, in industries ranging from health care in Germany to publishing work in the Czech Republic.

The global temporary staffing agency Adecco launched a recruitment site last week to match Ukrainian job seekers with employment in Germany. Companies have posted jobs, and about 900 Ukrainians have registered on the platform. "Work underpins their ability to begin new lives and secure their futures," said Alain De-

Continued on Page A11



Russian forces hit a shopping mall Monday in Kyiv, Ukraine, in what appeared to be the most powerful explosion yet in the capital.

### Clinging to Survival in an 'Apocalyptic' Mariupol

By VALERIE HOPKINS

L'VIV, Ukraine — Eduard Zarubin, a doctor, has lost everything. But he does still have his life.

His street is destroyed, and his city, the southern port of Mariupol, is so far the greatest horror of Russia's scorched-earth war against Ukraine. Russian missiles decimated a theater that sheltered more than 1,000 people. Another attack hit an art school where children were hiding in the basement.

Water is so scarce that people are melting snow. Heating, electricity and gas have disappeared. People are chopping trees for firewood to fuel outdoor cooking stoves shared by neighbors. To walk from one street to another often means passing corpses, or fresh graves dug in parks or grassy medians.

On Sunday, Russia gave an ultimatum that Ukrainian fighters in the city must give up, or face annihilation. Ukrainian officials refused. Evacuation buses, including some carrying children, were shelled on Monday, according to Ukrainian officials. Thousands of people have escaped the city, including Dr. Zarubin, but more than 300,000 others remain, even as fighting has moved onto the streets of some neighborhoods.

"If the war ends and we win, and get rid of them, then I think



Anastasia Erashova with her child this month at a hospital in Mariupol, Ukraine. Her other child was killed in the shelling.

that there will be excursions in Mariupol, just like there are to Chernobyl," he said of the abandoned site of a Soviet-era nuclear calamity. "So that people understand what kind of apocalyptic things can occur."

The destruction of Mariupol, one of Ukraine's largest cities, has been a siege and a relentless bombardment that for the last three weeks has left its population cut off from the outside world. What news does arrive comes from grainy cellphone videos taken by people still inside the city, from bulletins from Ukrainian officials,

or from the accounts of people like Dr. Zarubin, who have witnessed the destruction of everything they had.

Dr. Zarubin, a urologist, lived in a beautiful house on the Left Bank, one of Mariupol's elite neighborhoods. He had a comfortable life and the expectation that he had worked hard enough to have a secure future. But after the shelling began, he had to walk nearly eight miles a day with his son, Viktor, just to find water for their family. Later, as desperation set in, Dr. Zarubin said that people

Continued on Page A12

### Smaller Bombs Raise a Specter Of Atomic War

By WILLIAM J. BROAD

In destructive power, the behemoths of the Cold War dwarfed the American atomic bomb that destroyed Hiroshima. Washington's biggest test blast was 1,000 times as large. Moscow's was 3,000 times. On both sides, the idea was to deter strikes with threats of vast retaliation — with mutual assured destruction, or MAD. The psychological bar was so high that nuclear strikes came to be seen as unthinkable.

Today, both Russia and the United States have nuclear arms that are much less destructive — their power just fractions of the Hiroshima bomb's force, their use perhaps less frightening and more thinkable.

The fear is that if Mr. Putin feels cornered in the conflict, he might choose to detonate one of his lesser nuclear arms — breaking

Continued on Page A10

## As Confirmation Hearing Opens, Jackson Pledges Independence

By KATIE ROGERS

WASHINGTON — Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on Monday emphasized "my duty to be independent" if confirmed as the first Black woman on the Supreme Court, as Republican senators almost immediately began previewing attack lines accusing her of being lenient on crime.

On the first day of her confirmation hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Judge Jackson sat mostly in silence listening to 22 senators talk about what they wanted in a nominee. Race was not always an unspoken subtext, as Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina, suggested that tough questioning would be criticized as racism.

"We're all racist if we ask hard questions" is not going to fly with us," Mr. Graham said.

More than four hours after the hearing began, Judge Jackson, 51, cleared her throat, turned her microphone on and spoke for herself. "I am confirmed. I commit to you that I will work productively to support and defend the Constitution and this grand experiment of American democracy that has endured over these past 246 years," Judge Jackson, who cur-



"I decide cases from a neutral posture," Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson said in her opening remarks.

rently serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, said in opening remarks that lasted about 13 minutes.

"I have been a judge for nearly a decade now, and I take that responsibility and my duty to be independent very seriously," she

said. "I decide cases from a neutral posture. I evaluate the facts and I interpret and apply the law to the facts of the case before me without fear or favor, consistent with my judicial oath."

As the day began, some Democrats in the room were celebrating her nomination.

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas, who had no formal role in the proceedings, held up her phone to record as Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey spoke about the sheer joy he felt at a moment that he called, simply, "not a normal day for America."

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## In Killings of Homeless Men, Portraits of 3 Lives Derailed

This article is by Andy Newman, Campbell Robertson, Samira Asma-Sadeque and Ashley Southall.

By the time Morgan Holmes and Gerald Brevard III crossed paths on a scrubby strip of highway behind an animal shelter in Washington, they had spent years following each other's erratic footsteps, tracing ziggzag paths through the courts and jails and mental hospitals of the nation's capital and its suburbs.

They had done stints at the same city psychiatric institution and sometimes spent nights in the same neighborhood: Mr. Brevard at a men's shelter. Mr. Holmes in a tent along the roadside.

Still, they had arrived at this place with different histories. Mr. Holmes, popular and full of promise as a young man, was a generation older at 54, and after a lifetime of attempts at stability, he had eventually withdrawn from his family, ashamed of his condition. Mr. Brevard, 30, often tormented by illusions that people were plotting against him, had been in and out of the criminal justice system his entire adult life.

In New York City, Abdoulaye

### Mental Illness Sapped Families' Hopes

Coulibaly had taken a separate route to the streets. Born in the West African nation of Gambia, he came to New York about 20 years ago and made a bare living selling knockoff pocketbooks and directing customers to street vendors on a sidewalk in Chinatown until he, too, fell prey to mental illness and homelessness.

The three men's lives collided violently this month, the authorities said. On March 9, after shooting and wounding two other homeless men, Mr. Brevard approached Mr. Holmes's tent, shot and stabbed him and then set the tent aflame, prosecutors said.

Three nights later, Mr. Brevard surfaced in Manhattan, still apparently looking for targets. Ninety minutes after shooting a man in the arm, the police say, he came upon Mr. Coulibaly sleeping in a doorway next to an art supply store that was closed for the night. A volley of shots, and Mr.

Continued on Page A16

### Hunt for Crash Survivors

A China Eastern Airlines jet plumed on Monday into a remote mountain valley in southern China. There were 132 people on the Boeing 737-800. PAGE A8

### S.E.C. Advances Climate Rule

The commission moved toward a regulation that would require public companies to report the climate-related impact of their businesses. PAGE B1

### A Wide-Open Round of 16

The men's N.C.A.A. basketball tournament has thinned out some powerhouses, and those remaining do have some vulnerabilities. PAGE B8

### The Human Angle

Neuroscientists are exploring whether our ability to recognize shapes like squares and rectangles is part of what makes our species special. PAGE D1

### Michelle Goldberg

OPINION A20-21  
PAGE A21



## Omicron BA.2 leaves experts worried

Rising cases around the world may presage a surge in California, health officials say.

BY RONG-GONG LIN II AND LUKE MONEY

Coronavirus cases are on the upswing worldwide, prompting some officials to warn that California could see increases this spring because of the Omicron subvariant BA.2, even though cases of the strain so far have been modest in the state.

The World Health Organization has recorded the first week-over-week increase in global coronavirus cases since late January, with cases rising 8% compared with the previous week. With infections up in parts of Africa, Asia and Europe, officials say they wouldn't be surprised if new cases climbed again in the U.S. — and in California — this spring.

What remains unclear is whether a national increase would be a ripple or a deluge that could again strain hospitals.

So far, coronavirus cases are either still declining or flat across California and in L.A. County.

But even with the decline, officials are closely watching how Omicron subvariant BA.2 — which is 30% to 80% more contagious than the original Omicron variant — constitutes a growing percentage of new cases.

Nationally, BA.2 represented an estimated 23% of variants analyzed between March 6 and March 12, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The previous week, the subvariant represented an estimated 14% of virus cases analyzed nationally. BA.2 was found most frequently in the Northeast, where it represented nearly 40% of coronavirus cases; on the West Coast, it represented about 25% of cases.

Scripps Research Translational Institute microbiologist Kristian Andersen [See Subvariant, A9]

## No surrender, Zelensky says



EREM LURATREY/Associated Press

PEOPLE examine a mall destroyed by missiles in Kyiv, Ukraine. The attack killed at least eight, officials said.

Ukraine 'cannot' give away its cities, the president explains, as global outrage grows over war's savagery.

BY PATRICK J. MCDONNELL, JAWED KALEEM AND LAURA KING

LIVIV, Ukraine — International outrage mounted Monday over medieval scenes of suffering in Mariupol, a strategic southern port city that has defied demands for surrender despite a ferocious Russian siege that Ukrainian officials say has trapped thousands of civilians and left corpses lying in the streets.

As Russia's devastating onslaught in Ukraine neared the one-month mark, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Moscow was apparently willing to lay waste to the entire country to force his government to capitulate — something he declared that he and his compatriots could not do.

In the capital, Kyiv, wreckage still smoldered Monday after a major shopping mall was hit by missiles Sunday, killing at least eight people, according to Ukrainian officials. In the Black Sea port of Odesa, authorities said residential buildings in an outlying area were set ablaze by airstrikes.

Seeking to present a united transatlantic front in the face of Europe's biggest ground battle since World War II, President Biden spoke by phone Monday with the leaders of Germany, France, Britain and Italy about what the White House called Russia's "brutal tactics" in Ukraine.

The president, accompanied by Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III, was to attend an emergency North Atlantic Treaty Organization meeting Thursday in Brussels, and on Friday visit the front-line state of Poland, which is seeing an enormous wave of war refugees.

The war's savagery — and its evocation of past horrors on the European continent — was encapsulated in an announcement Monday from a German memorial foundation, that a 96-year-old survivor of three World War II concentration camps, Boris Romantschenko, had been killed in shelling in Kharkiv on Friday. The foundation said family members had informed them of Romantschenko's death, which came amid what has been weeks of relentless bombardment of the northeastern city.

Western analysts and officials increasingly believe that the invasion that began Feb. 24 has become a bloody war of attrition, with Russia [See Ukraine, A4]

## Jackson vows to be independent

High court nominee wants to make 'equal justice under law' a reality

BY DAVID G. SAVAGE AND NOLAN D. MCCASKILL

WASHINGTON — Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, President Biden's historic nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, promised Monday that if confirmed, she would seek to make the words "equal justice under law" a reality for all Americans.

She called herself an independent jurist who followed the law and pledged to "defend the Constitution and the grand experiment of American democracy that has endured over these past 246 years."

Backed by her family and a roomful of supporters, she spoke at the end of the first day of her confirmation hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee, whose Democrats said they were filled with hope by the nomination of the first Black woman for the post of Supreme Court justice.

"This is a day of joy," said Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.). "This has never happened before. It shows the world the [See Jackson, A6]



KENT NISHIMURA/LOS ANGELES TIMES

KETANJI BROWN JACKSON on the first day of her confirmation hearings. She is expected to face tough questions from Republicans.



CHRISTINA HOUSE/LOS ANGELES TIMES

AN L.A. County nurse gives Narcan to an unhoused person March 7 in Van Nuys.

## An ambitious effort to curb opioid deaths in L.A. County

BY EMILY ALPERT REYES

His friend was barely breathing when Manny Placeres saw him being dragged out of a tent near a freeway onramp. At first he thought someone nearby was shouting "Freeze."

"What I was really hearing was 'breathe,'" Placeres recounted.

Placeres jumped off his bicycle and tried everything

he could think of to revive the man. Nothing worked. As others panicked and shouted, Placeres pulled the man onto his lap and held him as his lips went blue.

It was a fentanyl overdose, Placeres learned. His friend died in his arms.

Placeres, 58, was wrestling with that memory when a nurse approached him one day at his RV in a Studio City encampment, offering him a white box of a

medicine that could undo an opioid overdose.

Now, Placeres said, he has rescued people again and again with that medicine in hand.

"What a change of mentality that is," Placeres said, "to be able to do that."

Deaths from drug overdoses have surged during the COVID-19 pandemic, to roughly 100,000 lives lost across the country over a [See Narcan, A12]

## In San Francisco, mayor picks risky fight with the left

Breaking from calls to defund the police, Breed aims to end 'the reign of criminals.'

BY SEEMA MEHTA

SAN FRANCISCO — When San Francisco Mayor London Breed arrived at UC Davis for her freshman year, she saw her new classmates surrounded by family. Except for the friend who dropped her off — her belongings in two small bags — she came alone.

Breed would frequently make her way back to the notoriously unsafe housing project in San Francisco's Western Addition where she was raised by her grandmother. She came not just to visit but often because of tragedy.

"When I was coming home, it was for the funeral of somebody I grew up with," Breed said in an interview in the city's ornate Beaux Arts City Hall. "And I just thought, what if he was here with me? What I just imagined

them walking around campus, and this could be their life. And that's what got me involved in public service."

Breed, 47, is a rising star in California politics because of her stewardship of San Francisco during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as her efforts to tackle crime, homelessness, addiction and education in a city that is famously — if not always accurately — known for its liberal, live-and-let-live ethos.

Up for reelection in 2023, Breed received national attention when she didn't mince words as she declared a state of emergency in the Tenderloin district, beset by overdose deaths, open-air drug dealing, violence and homeless encampments.

"It's time that the reign of criminals who are destroying our city, it is time for it to come to an end. And it comes to an end when we take the steps to be more aggressive with law enforcement. More aggressive with the changes in our policies. And less tolerant of all the bulls — that has destroyed our city," she said in December. [See Mayor, A7]

## Rohingya have faced genocide

Formal U.S. declaration is meant to generate international pressure over atrocities in Myanmar. WORLD, A5

## NTSB faults Coast Guard

Dozens of deaths could have been averted had the military followed safety advice, officials say. CALIFORNIA, B1

## Movie museum's inclusion issue

Absence of early studio heads, many of them Jewish, led to outcry. MARY McNAMARA WRITES. CALENDAR, E1

## Weather

Very warm. L.A. Basin: 87/61. B6

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## Jackson touts neutrality as a jurist

BY SEUNG MIN KIM,  
ANN E. MARIMOW  
AND AARON C. DAVIS

Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson on Monday promised she would be an independent jurist who will decide cases "without fear or favor" — emphasizing her neutrality on the bench in hopes of heading off the expected criticism from Republicans that she has been a judicial activist.

Jackson, who will be the first Black woman on the Supreme Court if confirmed, spent her official introduction before the

### On Senate confirmation hearings' first day, she anticipates GOP critiques

Senate Judiciary Committee detailing her approach as a judge, describing it as narrowly focused on resolving the issues before her. She has been a federal judge for nine years, both on the trial court and now on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

"I know that my role as a judge

is a limited one — that the Constitution empowers me only to decide cases and controversies that are properly presented. And I know that my judicial role is further constrained by careful adherence to precedent," Jackson said.

In anticipation of questions from Republicans about her judicial philosophy and rulings against the Trump administration, Jackson emphasized that she decides cases from a "neutral posture."

"I evaluate the facts, and I interpret and apply the law to the facts of the case before me,

without fear or favor, consistent with my judicial oath," she said.

Jackson's opening remarks capped off a day when both Democratic and Republican senators — who took turns delivering their own statements on the first day of Jackson's four-day confirmation hearings — indicated they were eager to turn a page

SEE JACKSON ON A4

**The Critique:** Amid glory and insult, the court's history is laid to rest. **A2**

**Watch live today at 8:30 a.m.** Hearings on Ketanji Brown Jackson nomination [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com)



Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson was officially introduced before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday.

# Ukraine refuses to surrender Mariupol

### Past aggressions against Ukraine influence Biden's decisions today

BY ASHLEY PARKER  
AND ELLEN NAKASHIMA

The former diplomats and defense officials who visited the U.S. Naval Observatory in early 2015 were seeking a receptive audience — and they found one in Vice President Joe Biden. Russia had taken over the Ukrainian territory of Crimea the previous year and fueled a bloody separatist uprising in the country's east, and the officials urgently wanted President Barack Obama to send Ukraine advanced anti-air missiles called Javelins.

Not only would that help repel the Russian-armed separatists, they insisted, but it would also serve as a powerful symbol of America's determination to stand by a former Soviet republic that was moving steadily toward the West.

"He said, 'Okay, I'll go down the hall' — meaning to the Oval Office — 'and make the case,'" recalled Jan Lodal, a former senior Pentagon official who helped organize the meeting. But Lodal said Biden added with a smile: "You've got to remember my first name: It's 'Vice.' Spelled V-I-C-E. I'm the highest-paid staff officer in the government."

Sure enough, Obama rejected the request, fearing that providing lethal aid to Ukraine would escalate tensions with Russia.

Now Biden, as president, is finally doing what he could not do then. He has provided Ukraine

SEE BIDEN ON A11



Ukrainian forces look at the destruction caused by a huge explosion at a shopping mall in Kyiv. At least eight people were killed. Russia so far has been able to seize only smaller cities, rather than large ones such as Kyiv, Kharkiv and Mariupol.

## Putin's war propaganda becomes 'patriotic' lessons in Russian schools

BY MARY ILYUSHINA

RIGA, LATVIA — In a dingy Russian classroom with worn-out rugs, elementary school students lined up to form the shape of the letter Z: the symbol used on much of Russia's military equipment in Ukraine and an emblem

of support at home, showing up on things from bus stops to car stickers to corporate logos.

Now it has become part of classroom lessons as the Kremlin expands its anti-Ukraine propaganda to students as young as kindergarten. It's another front in President Vladimir Putin's

sweeping crackdowns to criminalize dissent and enforce an unquestioning brand of patriotism even as Russia grows increasingly isolated.

Over the past three weeks, thousands of posts appeared on Russian social media featuring schoolchildren — up to high

school age — attending special "patriotic lessons" or posing for pictures forming Z and V-for-victory signs.

"I'm for the president. I'm for Russia!" a teacher exclaims in a clip posted Saturday by an official page for the Nizhny

SEE SCHOOLS ON A13

### IMPACT ON CIVILIANS GROWS MORE DIRE

#### Rights groups accuse Russia of brutal tactics

BY DAVID L. STERN,  
MISSY RYAN,  
DAN ROSENZWEIG,  
AND ELLEN NAKASHIMA

MUKACHEVO, UKRAINE — Russia's assault on Ukraine grew more destructive Monday, as civilians faced deadly obstacles in their attempts to flee the besieged city of Mariupol and a staggering flow of displaced Ukrainians strained neighboring countries.

Ukrainian and Russian forces battled in the streets of the strategic southern city, as Moscow attempted on the 26th day of its offensive to lay claim to an area that would cement its control of the Black Sea coast from the Russian-controlled Crimean Peninsula to the Russian border. The fate of Mariupol remained in doubt Monday, as Ukrainians refused to give up in the face of withering Russian attacks.

Human rights groups have documented what they say are brutal tactics by Russian forces in the city, depriving residents of water, food and medicine and

SEE UKRAINE ON A10

**Warsaw:** As city takes in refugees, mayor warns of breaking point. **A12**

**Propaganda:** Some are breaking through "digital iron curtain." **A14**

**Ripple effects:** Conflict expected to drive up U.S. food prices. **A18**

**Saving art from afar:** A Va. lab is aiding Ukrainian cultural sites. **C1**

## Under an avalanche of anti-transgender bills

'If this bill don't pass, it's coming back next year': An ardent advocate rallies his Alabama House allies

BY CASEY PARKS

SELMA, ALA. — Quentin Bell had traveled from Selma to Montgomery thousands of times, but still, he loaded the map before he pulled his Dodge pickup onto the dirt road in early March. He glanced at the arcing route, then over to his wife, Jennine, who was riding shotgun.

"54 miles," he said.

It was 9:50 a.m. Bell had plenty of time to drive what took the Rev.



Quentin Bell is the co-founder of the Knights and Orchids Society nonprofit group.

Martin Luther King Jr. and thousands of voting rights activists five days to walk. The presentation didn't start until noon, but Bell knew he couldn't risk being even a minute late. He and a group of other transgender activists had just 30 minutes to talk to the House Democrats, 30 minutes to show they were human, 30 minutes to teach Alabama's liberal legislators how to fight — for the third year in a row — a series of bills aimed at keeping

transgender children out of bathrooms and away from puberty blockers.

"I've been waiting for this moment," Bell said as he drummed his palms against the steering wheel. "I just want to be able to make a connection so we can continue to work with them after this, because if this bill don't pass, it's coming back next year."

Lately, fighting bills had begun to feel like a full-time job for advo-

SEE ACTIVIST ON A24

## Biden pushes a new normal amid worries over next surge

BY LENA H. SUN  
AND YASMEEN ABUTALER

Cathy Colledge, who has Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, feels like she's on her own trying to avoid a coronavirus infection that might kill her.

New guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention telling 99 percent of Americans living in counties labeled green or yellow that they can safely go without masks puts the onus on her to protect herself,

whether she goes to the grocery store or travels to Florida to see her grandchildren.

"I want to move on, too," said Colledge, 70, of Salt Lake City. "It's kind of confusing for me because I feel like, 'What about me? Why am I safer now than I would've been, I don't know, three months ago?'"

The unsettling answer for Colledge is that her risk continues to be dangerously high because of her illness, even though transmission of the coronavirus has

SEE VIRUS ON A17

### IN THE NEWS



Plane crash A flight carrying 132 plummeted into mountains in what may become China's deadliest aviation incident since 1994. **A8**

**THE NATION**  
The head of the United Nations gave warning that the world is "sleep-walking to climate catastrophe." **A3**  
The ex-wife of Missouri GOP Senate candidate Eric Greitens, a former governor who resigned during a scandal, accused him of domestic abuse in court documents. **A5**  
**THE WORLD**  
Europe's phaseout of Russian energy has

created an opportunity for African gas and oil projects. **A6**  
In a news conference, charity worker Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe asked why it took the British government six years to get her released from Iran. **A9**  
**THE ECONOMY**  
Higher food prices and the end of social safety net programs are pushing more families to food banks across the country. **A20**

**THE REGION**  
A Howard County teacher has been recognized for the support she gave to a second-grader struggling through grief and the pandemic. **B1**  
A labor group representing some Howard University instructors said it is making progress toward negotiating new contracts. **B1**  
Court documents add to the timeline in the case of the man accused

of shooting five homeless men, two fatally. **B1**  
After rioters breached the U.S. Capitol in 2021, Vice President Mike Pence was taken to an underground Senate loading dock, the Secret Service confirmed. **B1**  
**SPORTS**  
Maryland's move to hire Kevin Willard as its men's basketball coach wasn't particularly inspired, columnist Barry Svrluga writes. **D1**

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**HEALTH**  
Mystery illness A family's alarming symptoms would come and go. **E1**  
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Theater review "Catch Me If You Can" isn't sincere enough to soar. **C1**

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## deportes

## Agustín Rossi

El arquero de Boca crece en las difíciles

No solo ataja penales: el N° 1 xeneize es cada vez más determinante en los partidos importantes.



## CHINA SUFRIÓ SU PEOR ACCIDENTE AÉREO EN DÉCADAS

—el mundo

Un Boeing 737 de China Eastern Airlines se estrelló ayer cerca de Cantón, en el sudoeste de China; habrían muerto 132 personas, tras una caída de más de 8000 metros. **Página 9**

## JORGE TELERMAN: "EL COLÓN ES PARA TODOS, PERO NO PARA TODO"

—espectáculos

El nuevo director general presentará en 15 días los lineamientos de su gestión: resolver la jubilación de los bailarines y garantizar la excelencia, entre sus prioridades.

# LA NACION

MARTES 22 DE MARZO DE 2022 | LANACION.COM.AR

## El Gobierno dio 24 horas a las empresas para justificar los últimos aumentos

**PRESIÓN.** Para Kulfas, deberían bajar al nivel del 8 de marzo; aplicarían la ley de abastecimiento

Luego de una tensa reunión entre el ministro de Desarrollo Productivo, Matías Kulfas; el secretario de Comercio Interior, Roberto Feletti, y representantes de supermercados y empresas alimentarias, el Gobierno anunció que el objetivo es que los precios bajen a los niveles del 8 o el 10 de marzo, unos días antes de que el Pre-

sidente anunciara la "guerra contra la inflación". Feletti será el encargado de determinar qué productos estarán incluidos en función de un informe que deberán presentar hoy las empresas, después de que les dieron un plazo de 24 horas para hacerlo.

"Son muchos los rubros donde encontramos subas del 10%, 15% o

20%. Queremos discutir sector por sector y caso por caso. Les damos 24 horas y esto es una exigencia de que seamos responsables. Va a haber otras medidas en los próximos días", dijo Kulfas, que también advirtió que, de "ser necesario", se aplicarán la ley de abastecimiento y precios máximos. **Página 17**

**Déficit fiscal: en febrero creció 307% y sumó \$76.283 millones**

**Página 19**

LA NACION EN UCRANIA — DÍA 26

## Rusia destruyó un shopping en Kiev y Mariupol resistía en varios frentes

El ataque en la capital dejó ocho muertos; Zelensky rechazó el ultimátum de Moscú



El shopping Retroville, en el barrio Podilskyi de Kiev, quedó destruido tras un ataque de la artillería rusa

AFP

**Elisabetta Piqué**  
ENVIADA ESPECIAL

**LVIV.** La guerra llegó ayer con toda su ferocidad a Kiev, donde un flamante centro comercial fue salvaje-

mente bombardeado en la madrugada por fuerzas rusas, en un ataque que dejó ocho muertos e imágenes de destrucción impresionantes en la capital. El ataque, que coincidió con la negativa a aceptar un ultimátum

ruso de la ciudad portuaria mártir de Mariupol, en el sur, marcó un salto cualitativo en la estrategia de invasión total sobre diversos frentes lanzada hace 26 días por Vladimir Putin. **Continúa en la página 2**

**Putin activó su plan B, pero preocupan el C y el D**

Thomas Friedman  
**Página 9**

## Silencio de Cristina ante el clamor por una tregua

**INTERNA.** El llamado al diálogo fue repetido por ministros y legisladores

En una suerte de operativo clamor, funcionarios y legisladores ligados al Presidente llamaron públicamente a Alberto Fernández y a Cristina Kirchner a que se reúnan y dejen atrás la fractura generada por el acuerdo con el FMI. El silencio fue la respuesta desde las filas kirchneristas, donde dejan trascender que esperan una medida concreta del Presidente, una decisión, como "gesto" para recomponer la relación. **Página 10**

**OPINIÓN**

Luciana Vázquez

El país K, fuera de escala y del mundo

**Página 13**

## Milagro Sala, otro premio polémico de la UNLP

**CONDENADA.** En otra decisión polémica, la Facultad de Periodismo de la Universidad Nacional de La Plata le otorgó el Premio Rodolfo Walsh a Milagro Sala, por "su trayectoria y su obra". Una delegación, que incluyó a la funcionaria bonaerense Florencia Saintout, visitó en Jujuy a Sala, que cumple prisión domiciliaria. **Página 16**

## Alivio en las escuelas porteñas sin el barbijo

**COVID.** Para los chicos, ya no es obligatorio.

**Página 24**

## Avião com 132 cai na China, sem sinal de sobreviventes

Um Boeing 737-800 da China Eastern Airlines com 132 pessoas a bordo caiu ontem em montanhas no sul do país, quando ia de Kunming a Guangzhou. Não há sinal de sobreviventes, dizem bombeiros. O avião perdeu altitude de forma brusca, em queda quase vertical. A causa ainda era incerta. **Mundo A14**



Ferido em ataque, Artem, 2, se recupera em hospital de Zaporíjia (Ucrânia) André Liohn/Folhapress

## MEC prioriza pastores a pedido de Bolsonaro

Ministro da Educação diz em reunião gravada que pasta atende a demandas intermediadas por dois religiosos

O governo federal prioriza prefeituras cujos pedidos de liberação de verba são feitos por dois pastores sem cargo público que vêm intermediando o acesso ao Ministério da Educação (MEC), declarou o ministro da Educação, Milton Ribeiro. A afirmação está registrada em gravação à qual a Folha teve acesso. Desde janeiro de 2021, pelo menos, os pastores Gilmar Santos e Arilton Moura têm negociado com municípios a liberação de recursos do FNDE (Fundo Nacional de Desenvolvimento da Educação) para obras de creches, escolas, quadras ou para comprar equipamento.

Ribeiro, em reunião no MEC, explica que isso atende a uma solicitação do presidente Jair Bolsonaro (PL).

Na conversa gravada com prefeitos, lideranças do FNDE e os pastores, o ministro também indica, sem detalhar, haver uma contrapartida à liberação de recursos da pasta: "Então o apoio que a gente pede não é segredo [...] é apoio sobre construção das igrejas".

Questionados, MEC, FNDE e a Presidência não responderam. Procurados, Santos e Moura tampouco se manifestaram.

A operação dos pastores no MEC foi revelada pelo jornal O Estado de S. Paulo.

Prefeitos que participaram dos encontros obtiveram financiamento para novas obras. O município de Anajatuba (MA), de 27 mil habitantes, por exemplo, teve seis obras empenhadas. **Política A4**



Momento da queda do avião

## Comida C8 A Itália paulistana

Cozinha tradicional na cidade se expande com abertura de novos restaurantes

## Ilustrada C1 e C2

Lollapalooza volta a SP após saga de adiamentos e marca retomada de eventos

## Esporte B7

Atacantes vencem desânimo e obstáculos para ser goleadores

## Contra inflação, imposto de importação de etanol é zerado

O governo anunciou que zerou, até o fim do ano, o imposto de importação do etanol e de seis produtos da cesta básica (café, margarina, queijo, macarrão, açúcar e óleo de soja) para tentar conter a inflação. O impacto nos cofres públicos é calculado em R\$ 1 bilhão por ano. **Mercado A15**

## S. Herculano-Houzel Muitos neurônios e pouca energia

Por que algumas partes do cérebro parecem mais vulneráveis? Imagine a artéria carótida interna como a via por onde passam todos os carros, e os vasos capilares como veículos que levam comida às casas. Nessa cidade cerebral, pois, a densidade de ruas e casas não é proporcional. **Corrida B8**

## Ucrânia recusa ceder Mariupol, e Rússia vê impasse

A recusa da Ucrânia de se render em Mariupol, após a Rússia exigir deposição de armas, mostrou que Kiev não aceitará ultimatos, e Moscou vê má vontade. Em Zaporíjia, hospital pediátrico que recebe crianças de Mariupol retrata horror da guerra, conta André Liohn. **Mundo A12**

## Mortes de idosos sem vacina são 18 vezes a de imunizados

Entre adolescentes e adultos, a mortalidade dos não vacinados foi até 14 vezes maior, aponta o levantamento, que considerou mortes e internações no período de dezembro a fevereiro deste ano e mostra padrão similar nas hospitalizações de pacientes com quadros graves. **Saúde B1**

Entre adolescentes e adultos, a mortalidade dos não vacinados foi até 14 vezes maior, aponta o levantamento, que considerou mortes e internações no período de dezembro a fevereiro deste ano e mostra padrão similar nas hospitalizações de pacientes com quadros graves. **Saúde B1**

## Governo retoma construção de casas populares após 3 anos A16

## Dólar fecha abaixo de R\$ 5, na menor cotação desde junho de 2021

**Mercado A19**

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**Medida extrema**  
Acerca de ordem revertida de bloqueio do Telegram.

**MEC paralelo**  
Sobre pastores que negociam pleitos no ministério.

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## Legado de Doria vai de vacinação a promessas abertas

Amparado pela vacina contra a Covid e com vitrines em outras áreas, o presidencialista João Doria (PSDB) deixará o Governo de São Paulo sem ter conseguido capitalizar esse legado e com uma série de promessas pendentes. Para especialistas, há excesso de exposição. **Política A8**

## Boulos desiste de governo de SP e mira disputa com Eduardo a deputado

**Política A9**



**VOIX DE FRANCE**  
DANS LE PERCHE, « STARTUPPEURS »  
ET « COWORKEURS » ENTRE CHOIX  
ÉCOLO ET VOTE MACRON **PAGE 14**

**ART DE VIVRE**  
LA MODE DE L'ÉTÉ RENOUE  
AVEC LA SENSUALITÉ  
NOTRE SUPPLÉMENT

**ROYAUME-UNI**  
Quand Édouard VIII  
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**CHAMPS LIBRES**

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- Les tribunes de Thierry Wolton et de Pierre Valentin et Samuel Fitoussi
- La chronique de Renaud Girard
- L'analyse de Vincent Bordenave

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**FIGARO OUI FIGARO NON**

**Réponses à la question de lundi :**  
Après le Grand Chelem, le XV de France peut-il remporter la Coupe du monde 2023 ?

<b>OUI</b>	<b>NON</b>
<b>84%</b>	<b>16%</b>

**TOTAL DE VOTANTS : 93153**

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JULIE FRANCHET POUR LE FIGARO - WANDERWOLF IMAGES - STOCKADOBÉ.COM



Le centre commercial Retroville, hier, à Kiev, après une attaque russe.

## La Russie intensifie ses frappes contre les civils

Après le pilonnage de Marioupol et de Kharkiv, le bombardement d'un centre commercial hier à Kiev marque une escalade dans l'agression des populations civiles en Ukraine. **PAGES 2 À 4 ET L'EDITORIAL**

### Yvan Colonna est mort, après son agression par un détenu radicalisé en prison

Yvan Colonna, le militant indépendantiste corse reconnu coupable de l'assassinat du préfet de Corse-du-Sud, Claude Erignac, perpétré le 6 février 1998, est décédé lundi soir, à

l'hôpital de Marseille. Il était dans le Coma depuis le 2 mars dernier après l'agression mortelle par Franck Elong-Abe, un détenu terroriste islamiste. **PAGE 10**



### Gaz, carburants : le gouvernement envisage de taxer les « superprofits »

Alors que le prix du gaz et des carburants flambe, le gouvernement n'exclut pas de prendre des mesures « pour empêcher les énergéticiens de réaliser des superprofits sur le dos des

Français ». Une démarche encouragée par Bruxelles et par l'OCDE. TotalEnergies a décidé d'offrir à ses clients une ristourne de 10 centimes par litre d'essence. **PAGES 20 ET 21**

**ÉDITORIAL** par Patrick Saint-Paul [psaintpaul@lefigaro.fr](mailto:psaintpaul@lefigaro.fr)

## Stratégie de la terreur

« **O** opération Z ». C'est le nom donné par l'état-major russe à la guerre de Vladimir Poutine en Ukraine. « Z » comme zéro but de guerre atteint en un mois de conflit ! La « dénazification » et la « démilitarisation » promises par le maître du Kremlin - renversement du gouvernement de Volodymyr Zelensky, conquête des grandes villes du pays, destruction de l'armée ukrainienne - devaient être des formalités. Ce sont des objectifs de plus en plus lointains. En lieu et place des fleurs promises par leur président, les soldats russes ont été accueillis par des cocktails Molotov et une résistance acharnée. Mais, chaque jour, la frustration de Poutine se fait plus menaçante pour les populations civiles en Ukraine. Car il a repris en main l'arme qu'il maîtrise le mieux, celle de la terreur. À Kharkiv, écrasée sous les bombes depuis le premier jour de la guerre, les 80% de russophones qu'il prétend défendre, sont devenus « poutinophobes ». Les forces russes ont réduit Marioupol à un amas de ruines, de sang et de larmes. Sans réussir à vaincre son esprit de résistance. Kiev résiste, elle aussi,

aux coups de boutoir russes. Jusqu'à quand ? L'Occident s'offusque des « crimes de guerre ». À juste raison ! Femmes et enfants dans les maternités, civils cachés dans les théâtres ou faisant leurs courses dans les centres commerciaux sont visés délibérément dans cette guerre, qui sera de plus en plus sale à mesure que la frustration de Poutine grandira. Assiéger les villes pour les transformer en enfer sur terre et annihilier toute volonté de résistance : dans son esprit, la stratégie de la terreur a fait ses preuves à Grozny ou à Alep. Mais Kiev est quatre fois plus vaste que Grozny. C'est une capitale européenne et, à ce titre, sa destruction pourrait devenir une ligne rouge pour les Occidentaux, au même titre que l'usage d'armes chimiques ou nucléaires. Obsédé par l'histoire, Poutine a-t-il oublié que 900 jours de terreur n'ont pas suffi à faire plier les Russes à Leningrad ? Son « opération spéciale » est déjà perdue. Entre négociations et escalade, les Occidentaux trouveront-ils une formule pour l'empêcher d'aller au bout de sa « sale guerre » ? ■

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*'I should not have been in Iranian jail for six years'*

*Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe points finger at Foreign Office*

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## Revealed \$17bn of global assets linked to Russians with alleged ties to Putin

● Vast collection of properties includes houses, yachts, jets and offshore accounts

● List focuses on 35 men and women named as Putin's enablers by jailed opposition leader

Simon Goodley  
Kalyeena Makortoff  
Jasper Jolly

More than \$17bn (£13bn) of global assets - including offshore bank accounts, yachts, private jets and luxury properties in London, Tuscany and the French Riviera - have been linked to 35 oligarchs and Russian officials alleged to have close ties to Vladimir Putin.

Today, the Guardian, working in a partnership with the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project and other international news organisations, is unveiling the initial research in an ongoing project to track the wealth of Russia's most powerful operators.

The Russian asset tracker project will start by focusing on a list of 35 men and women named last year as Putin's alleged enablers by the jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny. It will record assets outside Russia where the reporting partners have seen

**145**

Total assets identified by the research so far

**\$0.5bn**

Value of property in UK linked to four oligarchs

**\$2bn**

Value of aircraft and yachts linked to six individuals



Roman Abramovich is named in the research, which details a £250m UK property portfolio linked to his family PHOTOGRAPH: MATTHEW CHILDS

## Kremlin warning over US 'war crime' allegations

Jennifer Rankin Brussels  
Julian Borger Washington

Russia has warned of a breach in its relations with Washington after Joe Biden labelled Vladimir Putin a war criminal as the US president held talks with European allies on efforts to stop the invasion of Ukraine.

Biden talked to the leaders of the UK, France, Germany and Italy yesterday as part of his effort to present a unified front to Moscow amid signs of cracks within the EU on how far to go with sanctions on

Russian oil and gas. Russia's foreign ministry said it had summoned the US ambassador, John Sullivan, for a meeting over "recent unacceptable statements" by Biden about Putin, days after Biden called Putin a "war criminal".

The ministry said in a statement: "It was emphasised that remarks such as these by the US president, which are unworthy of a state figure of such a high rank, put Russian-American relations on the verge of a breach."

Ned Price, the state department spokesperson, derided the Kremlin's complaints. "It's awfully rich to hear

a country speak about, quote, 'inappropriate comments' when that same country is engaged in mass slaughter, including strikes and attacks that have resulted in civilian lives [lost], strikes and attacks, barrages that have levelled civilian cities, an invasion of 100,000-plus forces against a largely civilian population," he said.

The Pentagon yesterday echoed Biden's accusations. "We continue to see indiscriminate attacks against civilians which we believe in many cases is intentional," John Kirby, the defence department spokesperson, said, adding that the US was seeing

"clear evidence that Russian forces are committing war crimes".

Last night the Tory party chair, Oliver Dowden, said Boris Johnson was "desperate" to go to Ukraine and has a "real emotional connection" with the Ukrainian people. It was reported at the week-end that Johnson wanted to



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